



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

STYLE

ARCHERS ON FIRE

Bangladesh win six of the nine gold medals in ISSF Int'l Solidarity Archery Championship

PAGE 14

A WIN FOR FRANCE

Iris Mittenaere, an aspiring dentist from Lille, is crowned Miss Universe 2017

PAGE 8

3 cops, local men involved

Finds a judicial magistrate's probe into arson on Santal houses in Gaibandha



CHAITANIYA CHANDRA HALDER and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A judicial magistrate in his investigation has found involvement of three police personnel and some local miscreants in setting fire to Santal houses during an eviction drive in Gaibandha on November 6 last year, according to a source who has access to the probe report.

Gaibandha Chief Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Shahidullah, who has conducted the inquiry, submitted the 65-page probe report along with 1,001-page relevant papers to the Supreme Court registrar general's office on Sunday for placing it to the High Court, Deputy Attorney General Motahter Hossain Sazu told The Daily Star yesterday.

"I have not seen the probe report yet, as it is still now at the Supreme Court registrar general's office. The report will be submitted to the High Court tomorrow [today] for its decision," he said.

The source told this newspaper yesterday that the chief judicial magistrate recorded statements of 106 witnesses during the probe.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Twelve eminent citizens after a meeting with the EC search committee members at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Pick those with no political affiliations

Eminent citizens advise search committee on EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the 31 political parties, which held talks with the president on formation of the Election Commission, propose names to the search committee today for the five-member commission.

The ruling Awami League last night decided to put forward five names to the search panel. The decision was made at a joint meeting of its central working committee and advisory council.

On the other hand, the BNP has finalised five names for placing before the panel on EC formation. The party took the decision at a meeting with its chief Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Gulshan office last night.

However, neither of the two parties disclosed any of the names to the media.

The political parties would have to give the names to the panel by 3:00pm today.

Yesterday afternoon, a group of 12 civil society members held talks with the search committee at the Supreme Court Judges' Lounge, and urged it not to pick anyone with political affiliation for EC formation.

The panel said it would also have a meeting with five more civil society members tomorrow to get their opinions.

At yesterday's meeting, the civil society members suggested that the panel pick honest, competent, impartial and experienced persons for constituting the next EC.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

GUNMEN ATTACK CANADIAN MOSQUE

6 shot dead, 8 injured

PM Justin Trudeau condemns attack on Muslims; 2 suspects held

AFP, Quebec City

Gunmen stormed into a mosque in Quebec during evening prayers and opened fire on dozens of worshippers, killing six and wounding eight in what Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned as a "terrorist attack."

Police arrested the two assailants

following the shooting Sunday in the Islamic Cultural Center in a busy district of Quebec City, police spokeswoman Christine Coulombe said.

She gave no indication of the identities or nationalities of the two suspects.

One witness told Radio Canada that "the two men were wearing black capogules," and one of them "had a strong Quebecois accent."

Coulombe said around 50 people were in the mosque when the shooting began at around 7:30 pm on Sunday (0030 GMT yesterday) toward the end of evening prayers.

A few minutes later police descended on the Saint-Foy district -- an area packed with offices and shops some 10 kilometers (six miles) west of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Police officers are seen near a mosque after a shooting in Quebec City, Canada, on Sunday. Six people were killed in the shooting.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Hajj to be costlier this year

Cabinet okays hajj policy, package

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hajj for Bangladeshis would be costlier this year. Each pilgrim would be paying at least Tk 14,000 to Tk 21,000 more than what they paid last year.

Asked, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiu Alam said, "Costs have gone up in several areas. For instance, Taka has fallen against the Saudi Arabian Riyal and US dollar. The house rent has also gone up".

He was talking to reporters after a cabinet meeting that approved "National Hajj and Umrah Policy 2017" and "Hajj Package 2017" yesterday.

This year, 117,198 Bangladeshis will perform Hajj under the private management while the number under the government management would be 10,000.

There would be two government-offered Hajj packages.

Under the first package, a pilgrim would have to pay Tk 3.81 lakh, up from Tk 3.60 last year. Under the second package, the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Life term for torture over dowry

14-year jail for provoking a woman to commit suicide, says draft anti-dowry act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft of "The Dowry Prohibition Act-2017" incorporating maximum 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and fine for provoking a girl to commit suicide.

As per the draft law, one would face maximum life-term sentence or up to 12 years' imprisonment and fine for seriously hurting a woman over dowry, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiu Alam told reporters after the cabinet approved the proposed law at its weekly meeting at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

The woman and children affairs ministry had recommended the death penalty for inciting suicide, when the draft was being formulated, but the provision was dropped before it was placed at the cabinet, sources at the ministry said.

If the man and his parents demand dowry, they would have to face minimum one year and maximum five years of jail or up to Tk 50,000 fine or both. Injuring a victim will result in one to three years in jail and financial penalty.

Filing a case on false accusations of demanding dowry would result in sentence to one-year jail or maximum Tk 50,000 fine or both, said the cabinet secretary.

He said the draft law has been framed incorporating the previous Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980 and its amendments made later on.

Mitali Jahan of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) said there are already such provisions of punishments in the Women and Children

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Sexually abused, trafficked female worker rescued in Malaysia

MUNTAKIM SAAD

Dreaming of a better future, Bithi (not her real name) left for Malaysia 11 days ago to secure a well-paid job.

But the 20-year-old had no idea what danger lurked within. She was sexually abused over 20 times in just four days by eight men.

She was targeted by a human trafficking gang.

She was sharing her ordeal with The Daily Star after returning home yesterday morning.

The brokers lured Bithi promising with a better job and boarded her to Malaysia on tourist visa on January 18. But a day after reaching there, she was forced to have sex with the human traffickers.

She used to work at a garment factory in Mirpur. About six months ago, she met two youths -- Mofizur Rahman Raja and Topu.

She alleged that Raja often followed her in front of her workplace at lunch time.

The two told her that they would arrange a job for her in Malaysia with a monthly salary of Tk 20,000. They demanded Tk 1.5 lakh from her as migration cost.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Climate Trust rejoinder on TIB report

Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) has sent a rejoinder to a news headlined "TIB finds mis-handling of climate projects" published in The Daily Star on January 24, 2017.

We are publishing the shortened version of the rejoinder here:

"...While perusing the report, it has appeared to BCCT that TIB has pivoted its generous effort to a very narrow area of concentration with facts and figures which are not fully representative and hence this may create some confusion and have negative impacts

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Bleak days await family of man who died saving girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The family of Badal Mia, the railway staff who was killed while saving a girl from being crushed under a train on Friday, sees bleak days ahead.

"I don't know how we will survive. My father was the main earning member of our joint family, which has 12 members," Mamun Mia, Badal's son, said yesterday.

The technical assistant at the engineering department of Bangladesh Railway died near the Kuril Biswa Road in the capital. The incident happened around 12:30pm when a group of railway staff, including the 55-year-old, was doing maintenance work of the railway tracks there.

The five-year-old girl was crossing one of the tracks apparently with her mother. A



Badal Mia down-at-heel.

train was approaching fast, and Badal, sensing danger, jumped in and shoved the child out. He, however, himself was hit by the train and killed on the spot.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mamun, who is now staying with his other family members in Mukhi village of Mymensingh's Gaffargaon, said, they were

"We are five brothers and three of us are married. We have children and our old grandmother needs medicines frequently," said the 25-year-old, who is a contractual railway gateman at Khilkhet area in Dhaka.

His eldest brother is a security guard. The third brother is unemployed while the fourth one is a day labourer and the youngest one a class-IV student. "We have three

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

UDDIPAN Wins SAFA Award & SAARC Anniversary Award

UDDIPAN has been Awarded as the Winner (1st.Prize) of South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) Award for best Presented Annual Report and SAARC Anniversary Awards for Corporate Governance Disclosures, 2015.



Mr. Md. Emranul Huq Chowdhury, Executive Director & CEO of UDDIPAN received the Award from Mr. Hans Hoogervorst, Chairman, International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) in a ceremony recently held in Dhaka. Mr. Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest while Mr. Fazle Kabir, Governor, Bangladesh Bank was present as special guest. Among others SAFA President, ICAB President and IASB Chief Executive were present on the stage. Delegates from the SAARC Countries attended the ceremony.

Transparency, Accountability & Governance highly contribute to achieve the Goal.

